



# Mediation News

Maryland Commission on Human Relations Newsletter

AUTUMN 2005

## In this edition:

- Mediator Excellence Program

- Volunteer Spotlight

CALENDAR  
~ Page 2

## Statewide Regional Forums for YOU!

Four years ago, the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) with the assistance of representatives from every segment of the ADR community set out to collaboratively design a practical system to support high quality mediation practice in Maryland. No other state has developed a statewide consensus regarding mediator quality assistance measures. Maryland is the first in the nation to achieve such a plan which meets the needs both of the practitioner community and of the general public.

The **Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME)** is designed to provide mediators with an array of options to continue their development on the mediator excellence "tree." Branches on the tree include mentoring, training, case and ethics discussions, consumer education, regional networks, observation, evaluation, certification and a grievance/ombuds program. There are 6 regional meetings scheduled to share an update on the MPME along with information on how individuals (you!) can get involved. Please feel free to attend one of the following meetings and learn more!

Dates for forums are all from **6p – 8:30p** (light dinner served at 5:45p):

<b>Thurs. Oct 20<sup>th</sup> -</b>	Central Maryland MD Dept. of Transportation Hanover, MD
<b>Wed. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> -</b>	Southern Maryland Higher Educ. Center California, MD
<b>Wed. Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> -</b>	Eastern Shore Salisbury University Salisbury, MD
<b>Tues. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> -</b>	Northern Maryland Cecil County Public Library Elkton, MD
<b>Tues. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> -</b>	Western Maryland Alleghany College of MD Cumberland, MD
<b>Wed. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> -</b>	Central Maryland Long Branch Public Library Silver Spring, MD

*Please contact MACRO for more info or to register at 410-841-2260.*



## Volunteer Spotlight



**JENNIFER ROBINSON** has been a stay-at-home mom, a volunteer, and is now a student of Conflict Management in the Masters Program at University of Baltimore. While participating in several groups and PTA meetings at her children's school over the years, she developed an interest in conflict resolution. She saw first hand when people had difficulty coming together and working towards resolution of their concerns. In 2000, she took those experiences and volunteered to research education policy and learned even more about how conflict can cause paralysis in decision making and in people's interactions with one another. She later shared her research in a statewide educational advisory panel to help empower people.

Jennifer reflects that she "loves mediation because it empowers people when they communicate and provide one another with information. Each time I mediate, I learn something about what makes mediation work." Recently, she participated in Maryland's pilot mentoring program as a learning partner. Jennifer says her mentor at MCHR, Vicki Baty, was wonderful, because she shared her interest in reflection and in continued learning, and modeled excellent skills. Through mentoring she shifted from a place of tentativeness about her skills and now states, "I know I'll always be learning how to do things better and that confidence comes from the hope and sense of service that I bring with me to each session."

Although Jennifer keeps more than busy with her classes, her husband, her 2 kids and their school meetings and activities she still finds the time to try weed the gardens around her house in Hereford and take the occasional family ski trip and this Fall, she begins a new endeavor together with another MCHR mediator working to bring Community Conferencing to Baltimore County (*look for more info in the next edition of MediationNews!*). Thanks to Jennifer Robinson for all her hard work!

# Mediation News

## OCTOBER

27 (9a – 1p)

## NOVEMBER

18 (9:30a – 12:30p)

## DECEMBER

8 (7pm)

## JAN - MAR 2006

## OCTOBER 2006

25-28

### **MCHR Training: Cultural Competency** (*Baltimore MCHR Office*)\*

Trainer ~Tim Stranges from The Timothy Group, HR and Mediation Services

### **MCHR Training: Taking the Worry out of Working With Attorneys in Mediation**

(*Baltimore MCHR Office*)\*, Trainer ~ Jonathan Rosenthal, MACRO

Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution Quarterly Meeting, Judicial Training Center in Annapolis  
(see [www.mcdr.org](http://www.mcdr.org) for more info)

*Enjoy the Holiday & New Year's Season!*

MCHR Trainings to be announced!

Annual ACR Conference, Philadelphia, PA ([www.acrnet.org](http://www.acrnet.org) for more info)

*\*To register for any MCHR Training* contact Tara at 410-767-6459or [ttaylor@mail.mchr.state.md.us](mailto:ttaylor@mail.mchr.state.md.us)

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

*~ Benjamin Disraeli*

MD Commission on Human Relations  
6 Saint Paul Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202